

Ideas for Assignments that Incorporate Information and Technology Literacy Standards

All disciplines

1. Instead of the typical essay, assign students a photo essay of five to seven photographs on a given topic in your course. Photos should be visually interesting and capable of being developed into a thematic series of pictures. Have students conduct research related to their photographs. Ask them to write a brief annotation on each of their photos that incorporates research.
2. Find an article, editorial, or a letter to the editor in a professional journal in education or your content area. Ask students to respond to the article/editorial/letter to the editor and use research to support their opinion/response.
3. Nominate someone or a group from your teaching content area for the Nobel Peace Prize. Learn about the prize, qualifications, the jury, etc. Justify the nominations.
4. Have students write an exam for one chapter/area of your course. Have them answer all/some of the questions (depending on teacher's preference). Turn in an annotated bibliography of source material, and rationale for questions.
5. Have students conduct research on an important person in your content area, but for the writing assignment, have them weigh the information they've found to justify whether the person should be considered a hero, a villain – or both! This allows a student to weave factual information from research with original, individual analysis. Examples: Pasteur and microbiology, or Best and diabetes.
6. Have students create an entire newspaper as a class on a given topic in your content area. Include "reports" of actual events, editorials, letters to the editor, special features, crime reports, political cartoons, human interest highlights, people in the news, etc. Some will be based on research, others are creative; Examples: Abolitionist newspaper, quadratic formula newspaper, one for Mole day, interior design newspaper, etc. Have the last page of the newspaper be a bibliography of sources.
7. Students build a book collection on a topic in your content area for a fictional library. They have to select book titles based on age appropriateness, levels of difficulty, content, etc. They then provide an annotated bibliography of books with justification for selection, availability, cost, etc.
8. Students provide itinerary for an off-campus study trip that would relate to your class – either a long term field trip or short term field trip. They have to select destination, sites to visit (and rationale for visiting those sites – how visits reinforce course concepts), time schedule, and annotated reading lists for study trip participants.
9. Choose a topic you are studying in class; ask students to research that concept in a particular decade of history; ask students to find primary sources and put together a montage of information and images.

Art

1. Have students write a paper on iconography of one of eight works of art based on students' own observation, library sources, time period, etc.
2. Create a fictional situation in which famous artifacts were stolen from a particular museum or destroyed by a natural disaster; ask students to become art restoration professionals who will examine the damage, research the particular pieces of art, determine their worth, and replace the missing pieces with pieces of equal esteem, but they must stay within a budget. Involves research, creativity, and economic issues.

Driver's Ed.

1. For a specified period of time, have students collect articles on a given topic (ie: drinking and driving, drugs and driving, traffic accidents and fatalities, crash dummy testing, etc.) from various sources. Have them create an attractive anthology of these articles with a written rationale for selection for each one, and a final bibliography of sources.

English

1. Write a review of a musical performance. Include reference not only to the performance attended, but to reviews of the composition's premiere, if possible. Place the composition in a historical context using timetables, general histories, and memoirs when available, using this information to gain insight into its current presentation.
2. Compare current journal articles with conservative versus liberal tendencies about an issue/theme found in a piece of literature.
3. Give students a primary source document from the time period or topic under discussion; brainstorm on questions it raises and how to most effectively research the topic.

FACE

1. Either provide students with articles or have students select articles that discuss a particular health/exercise/weight training regiment. Ask students to follow the regiment as precisely as possible, keeping a log of their progress for a specified period of time. Ask students to find other articles that support or counter the regiment they've followed. Students write a description of their experience and defend or refute it, incorporating their sources as evidence. They include a bibliography of their sources.
2. Assign each student a 'diagnosis' (can range from jock itch to Parkinson's Disease). Have them act as responsible patients by investigating both the diagnoses and the prescribed treatment. Results presented in a two-page paper should cover: a description of the condition and its symptoms; its etiology; its prognosis; the effectiveness of the prescribed treatment, its side effects and contradictions, along with the evidence; and, finally, a comparison of the relative effectiveness of alternate treatments. This can also be accompanied by oral or visual presentations, slide shows, poster sessions, etc.

Foreign Language

1. Create a fictional situation in which famous artifacts were stolen from a particular museum or destroyed by a natural disaster; ask students to become art restoration professionals who will examine the damage, research the particular pieces of art, determine their worth, and replace the missing pieces with pieces of equal esteem, but they must stay within a budget. Involves research, creativity, and economic issues.
2. Students research a historical/political/educational/popular issue in the United States and then research the same issue in a foreign country. Who is affected most by this issue? How has the government or society responded in light of this issue? What cultural comparisons can be drawn in light of this issue?

Health

1. Assign each student a 'diagnosis' (can range from jock itch to Parkinson's Disease). Have them act as responsible patients by investigating both the diagnoses and the prescribed treatment. Results presented in a two-page paper should cover: a description of the condition and its symptoms; its etiology; its prognosis; the effectiveness of the prescribed treatment, its side effects and contradictions, along with the evidence; and, finally, a comparison of the relative effectiveness of alternate treatments. This can also be accompanied by oral or visual presentations, slide shows, poster sessions, etc.
2. Students research a disease such as AIDS and compare its incidence in the United States to its incidence in other countries. What measures have various countries developed to combat the disease? Which countries have better prevention methods than others? What are the best ways of reducing the incidence or eradicating the disease?

Math

1. Assign students a mathematical concept. Have students develop a photo essay that visually illustrates the steps of the mathematical concept or several mathematical concepts through objects found in everyday life or visual renderings found in library resources.

2. Calculus students write a letter to students in another class or to underclassmen explaining what Calculus is, the importance and benefits of taking Calculus, and how Calculus can be applicable to their futures (incorporates skills in writing, comprehension, knowledge of calculus concepts, and potential research)
3. Have students research various package designs for product sales and rationale for package designs. Have them compare and contrast package designs for surface area (closed), total area (with flaps) for amount of material used in packaging, cost of material used in packaging, volume of product enclosed, and then calculate volume/cost ratio. Have students discover which type of package gets the most amount of volume for the least amount of material. Have students choose which product design is best based on established criteria, write a rationale, and include a bibliography of sources. You could then have students design and construct a package for an existing or fictional food item and write a one page justification for their reasoning.
4. Ask students to write a series of story problems based on research on various topics. For example, have students calculate square footage per person by using an atlas to find the population and the size (square miles) of the state; ask students to find books about annual and perennial plantings — given a specified area of a flower or plant garden, see who can plant the most flowers or plants using the correct spacing requirements; look up information on mountains and mountain ranges -- given the height and slope of a mountain, students calculate the number of miles to hike to reach the peak.
5. Ask students to compile statistical information from a specified number of sources on a current topic (like crime, nutrition, exercise, education, etc.) They then create charts and graphs (and compile a bibliography of sources!) to communicate the statistical data they found.

Music

1. Write a review of a musical performance. Include reference not only to the performance attended, but to reviews of the composition's premiere, if possible. Place the composition in a historical context using timetables, general histories, and memoirs when available, using this information to gain insight into its current presentation.
2. Students write their own definition of a particular style of music (gospel, blues, western, jazz, etc.) and then compile definitions from other sources; then compare; then evaluate.
3. Select a piece of historical music (protest song, patriotic songs, etc.) and research setting for an original performance of that piece; write a fictionalized account of you at the performance (letter, diary)

Phy. Ed.

1. Either provide students with articles or have students select articles that discuss a particular health/exercise/weight training regiment. Ask students to follow the regiment as precisely as possible, keeping a log of their progress for a specified period of time. Ask students to find other articles that support or counter the regiment they've followed. Students write a description of their experience and defend or refute it, incorporating their sources as evidence. They include a bibliography of their sources.

Psychology

1. Assign each student a 'diagnosis' (can range from jock itch to Parkinson's Disease). Have them act as responsible patients by investigating both the diagnoses and the prescribed treatment. Results presented in a two-page paper should cover: a description of the condition and its symptoms; its etiology; its prognosis; the effectiveness of the prescribed treatment, its side effects and contradictions, along with the evidence; and, finally, a comparison of the relative effectiveness of alternate treatments. This can also be accompanied by oral or visual presentations, slide shows, poster sessions, etc.

Science

1. Assign each student a 'diagnosis' (can range from jock itch to Parkinson's Disease). Have them act as responsible patients by investigating both the diagnoses and the prescribed treatment. Results presented in a two-page paper should cover: a description

- of the condition and its symptoms; its etiology; its prognosis; the effectiveness of the prescribed treatment, its side effects and contradictions, along with the evidence; and, finally, a comparison of the relative effectiveness of alternate treatments. This can also be accompanied by oral or visual presentations, slide shows, poster sessions, etc.
2. Ask students to find a short article in the popular press on a scientific topic; then ask students to find the original research finding on which the popular article was based. Students should review related findings, discuss the relationship between the popular article and original research, and critique the popular article with regard to its accuracy.
 3. Select a scientific topic in which there have been many advances made over time. Have students locate a verbatim transcript of an analytical description of a news conference can serve as a format for simulated interviews with well known people of any historical period. What questions would contemporaries have asked? What questions would we now, with hindsight, want to ask? How would contemporary answers have differed from those that might be given today? Here students have an opportunity to take a rigorous, analytical approach, both in terms of the questions to be asked and the information contained in the answers.

Social Studies

1. Students follow a piece of legislation through Congress. This exercise is designed primarily to help them understand the process of government. However it could also be used in something like a 'critical issues' course to follow the politics of a particular issue. (What groups are lobbying for or against a piece of legislation? How does campaign financing affect the final decision? Etc.)
2. Similar to the above, have students follow a particular foreign policy situation as it develops. Who are the organizations involved? What is the history of the issue? What are the ideological conflicts?
3. Write a review of a musical performance. Include reference not only to the performance attended, but to reviews of the composition's premiere, if possible. Place the composition in a historical context using timetables, general histories, and memoirs when available, using this information to gain insight into its current presentation.
4. Choose a company for each student/group of students; have students research that company and find out employment policies, net worth, patents, stock options, projections, etc.
5. Select a piece of historical music (protest song, patriotic songs, etc.) and research setting for an original performance of that piece; write a fictionalized account of you at the performance (letter, diary)

Tech. Ed.

1. Students research several architectural designs or product designs of buildings, furniture, products, etc. in various trade journals and online. Have students compare and contrast designs and select the best according to a set of established criteria (like budget, materials, space, etc.). They write descriptions of various designs, rationale for selection of best design, and a bibliography of sources.